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NGA is subject of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers notice of intent to identify site for its future facility

SPRINGFIELD, Virginia – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, on behalf of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, posted a notice of intent in the <u>Federal Register</u> to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) and initiate a public scoping period that entails open house meetings for several sites under consideration for a new NGA facility in the St. Louis Metropolitan Area.

Continued studies determined that two of the six sites under consideration – Weldon Spring and NorthPark (both in Missouri) will be removed because they failed to meet the agency's requirements.

The EIS notice is required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and starts the next phase of the agency's program to identify a location for a new, modern facility in the region to meet the agency's mission requirements. The process will analyze each site for potential impacts to the quality of the human environment. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District, will serve as NGA's project manager for the NEPA assessment, which is projected to take 18 to 24 months for completion.

A public scoping period also begins with the notice and continues until Jan. 19, 2015, to provide the public with an opportunity to identify issues and provide input related to NGA's proposed action.

NGA and the Army Corps of Engineers will hold three public scoping meetings, Dec. 9-11, each day from 4-6 p.m. The open-house engagements will explain the project and EIS process, and provide a venue to answer questions, discuss potential impacts and obtain feedback from people in attendance.

The public meeting dates and locations are:

- Tuesday, Dec. 9: St. Louis Gateway Classic Foundation, 2012 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63106
- Wednesday, Dec. 10: Katy Cavins Community Center, 308 East Fifth Street, O'Fallon, Illinois 62269
- Thursday, Dec. 11: Crestwood Community Center, 9245 Whitecliff Park Lane, Crestwood, Missouri 63126

The environmental impact of four sites will be assessed:

- Fenton, at the old Chrysler plant, along I-44, southwest of St. Louis
- Mehlville, at the Met Life facility, on Tesson Ferry Road between I-270 and Route 141, south of St. Louis
- North St. Louis City, near the intersections of Cass and Jefferson avenues
- St. Clair County, along I-64, east of St. Louis in Illinois adjacent to Scott Air Force Base

Two sites, originally under consideration, have been dropped and will not be evaluated further:

- Weldon Spring, along I-64 near Chesterfield, Missouri, northwest of St. Louis NGA removed this site from consideration after initial master planning sessions, held in October, failed to identify suitable layout options to meet agency requirements
- NorthPark, near I-70 and Hanley Road and Lambert airport, north of St. Louis This site has been sold, and the remaining land does not meet NGA's requirements

About NGA:

The <u>National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency</u> delivers geospatial intelligence, or GEOINT, that provides a decisive advantage to warfighters, policymakers, intelligence professionals and first responders. Both an intelligence agency and combat support agency, NGA fulfills the president's national security priorities in partnership with the intelligence community and the Department of Defense. Many of those missions, such as Global Positioning System support, aeronautical safety of navigation and precision targeting support, are accomplished from NGA's facilities in St. Louis.

NGA is pursuing construction and operation of a modern facility in the St. Louis metropolitan area to better support its mission to provide timely, relevant and accurate geospatial intelligence in support of national security. The proposed new facility will support NGA's current mission, improve its resiliency and address challenges associated with its current facility located on Second Street in the city of St. Louis, including physical constraints and security requirements.

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